

LICENSING EXAMINATIONS

The Commissioner of Health and Senior Services grants licenses to Health Officers and Registered Environmental Health Specialists. Only those candidates who submit evidence of the required education, training and experience, are accepted for testing by the Public Health Licensing and Examination Board, and who subsequently pass an examination for the position. The Public Health Council prescribes the qualifications for the positions of Registered Environmental Health Specialists and Health Officers. The examinations are administered three times per year traditionally during the last week of February, July, and November. Applications and all supporting materials are due approximately a month and one-half before the scheduled examination date. This allows time for administrative processing and the review by the Public Health Licensing and Examination Board. If an application is found deficient, the applicant will be notified by the Board and will have an opportunity to correct any deficiency. The application fee is \$50.00 and, if an applicant is accepted for the examination, there is an additional examination fee of \$100.00.

A Health Officer is generally the administrative officer of a local health agency and evaluates the community's health issues and develops programs to address the community's needs and the prevention and control of health and/or environmental problems.

The minimum qualifications to be admitted to the Health Officer examination are as follows:

- 1) hold a doctorate or a masters degree from an accredited college or university which is recognized by the Commission on Higher Education in a health-related field such as public health, environmental science, health administration, social work, nursing, or health education or hold a doctor of medicine, a doctor of osteopathy, or a doctor of veterinary medicine from an accredited medical, osteopathic, or veterinary school, respectively. The course work for the above-referenced degrees shall include or be supplemented by at least three (3) credit hours in each of the following areas: planning, administration, environmental science, social science, statistics, and epidemiology; and
- 2) satisfactory completion of two (2) years of full-time employment in a position which provides administrative experience in at least three of the five recognized public health activities, *i.e.*, administrative services, environmental health, communicable disease, maternal and child health, and adult health services.

The Health Officer examination is comprised of two parts – Part I which is an inventory of content knowledge using a fixed response format and Part II which is an assessment of conceptual, judgmental, and experiential skills using an open response format. The framework for Part II is *The Public Health Workforce: An Agenda for the 21st Century* and *Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health in New Jersey, N.J.A.C.8:52*.

A Registered Environmental Health Specialist administer environmental and health programs for both public and private agencies and organizations in food protection and safety, water protection, air quality, noise, industrial and land pollution, sewage disposal, hazardous and toxic substances, solid waste management, and institutional health.

The minimum qualifications to be admitted to the Registered Environmental Health Specialist examination are as follows:

- 1) hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university which is recognized by the Commission on Higher Education in a program accredited by the National Environmental Health Science and Protection Accreditation Council;

or

- 2) hold a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university which is recognized by the Commission on Higher Education with a minimum of 32 credit hours in biological, physical and environmental sciences and mathematics; and

- a) have satisfactorily completed one (1) year of postgraduate, full-time employment with a local health agency as defined pursuant to *Public Health Practice Standards of Performance for Local Boards of Health in New Jersey, N.J.A.C. 8:52*. This employment shall be under the supervision of a New Jersey-licensed Health Officer or a New Jersey-licensed Registered Environmental Health Specialist.

or

- b) satisfactorily complete a course in the environment and public health which is approved by the Department of Health and Senior Services and conducted by an accredited college or university which is recognized by the Commission on Higher Education; and satisfactorily complete a field training course approved by the Department of Health and Senior Services.

The Registered Environmental Health Specialist examination consists of 100 questions which assess content knowledge in a fixed response format. The content includes the areas of administration, communicable disease, food protection and safety, water and wastewater, vector control, epidemiology, and pollution control.

Questions regarding the examinations can be directed to Michael F. Lakat, Chair, Public Health Licensing and Examination Board at (609) 292-4960 or via email at Michael.Lakat@doh.state.nj.us.

The examination dates for 2005 are July 26th and November 29th. The application deadline for those examinations are June 10th and October 7th, respectively.